

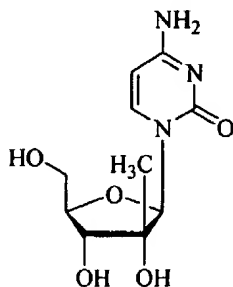
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

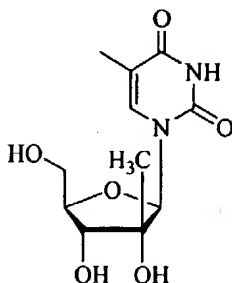
Claims 1-99 (cancelled)

Claim ~~100~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



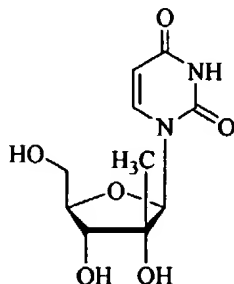
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim ~~101~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

9  
Claim ~~102~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 103-129 (cancelled)

<sup>10</sup>  
Claim ~~130~~ (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100~~, ~~101~~, ~~102~~, or ~~140-145~~ <sup>7 8 9 1-6</sup> 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for oral delivery.

<sup>11</sup>  
Claim ~~131~~ (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100~~, ~~101~~, ~~102~~, or ~~140-145~~ <sup>7 8 9 1-6</sup> 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intravenous delivery.

<sup>12</sup>  
Claim ~~132~~ (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100~~, ~~101~~, ~~102~~, or ~~140-145~~ <sup>7 8 9 1-6</sup> 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for parenteral delivery.

<sup>13</sup>  
Claim ~~133~~ (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100~~, ~~101~~, ~~102~~, or ~~140-145~~ <sup>7 8 9 1-6</sup> 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intradermal delivery.

<sup>14</sup>  
Claim ~~134~~ (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100~~, ~~101~~, ~~102~~, or ~~140-145~~ <sup>7 8 9 1-6</sup> 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for subcutaneous delivery.

<sup>15</sup>  
Claim ~~135~~ (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100~~, ~~101~~, ~~102~~, or ~~140-145~~ <sup>7 8 9 1-6</sup> 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for topical delivery.

Claim 136 (cancelled)

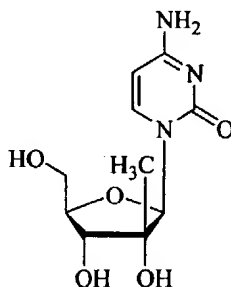
<sup>16</sup> <sup>7 8 9 1-6</sup>  
Claim 137 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100, 101, 102, or 140-145~~  
140-152, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit, such that said dosage unit

<sup>17</sup> contains 10 to 1500 mg of the compound. <sup>7 8 9 1-6</sup>

Claim 138 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100, 101, 102, or 140-145~~  
<sup>18</sup> 140-152, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit that is a tablet or capsule.

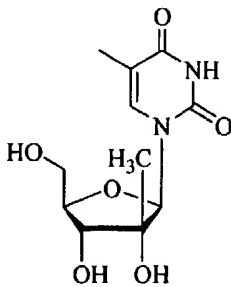
Claim 139 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100, 101, or 102, or 140-152~~  
<sup>7 8 9</sup> wherein the host is a human.

Claim 140 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection  
<sup>1</sup> in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally  
effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



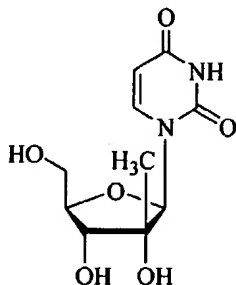
<sup>2</sup> or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 141 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection  
in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally  
effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



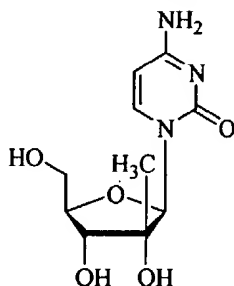
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

<sup>3</sup>  
Claim 142 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



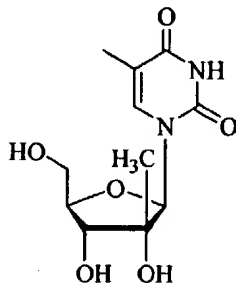
<sup>4</sup> or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 143 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



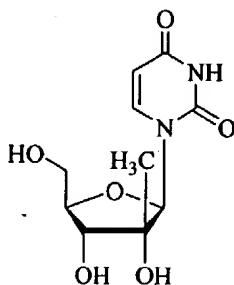
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5  
Claim ~~144~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

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Claim ~~145~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

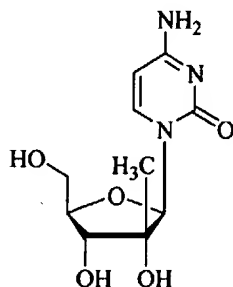
Claims 146 -156 (cancelled)

19  
Claim ~~157~~ (previously presented): The method of any one of claims ~~100-102~~ or ~~140-145~~,  
20 wherein the compound is at least 90% by weight free of the  $\beta$ -L-isomer. 7 9 1 6  
Claim ~~158~~ (previously presented): The method of any one of claims ~~100-102~~ or ~~140-145~~,  
wherein the compound is at least 95% by weight free of the  $\beta$ -L-isomer. 7 9 1 6

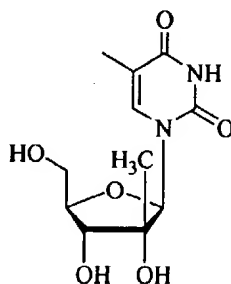
21  
7 9 1 6  
Claim ~~159~~ (currently amended): The method as in any one of claims ~~100-102~~ or ~~140-145~~  
~~145-150~~, wherein the compound is at least 85% by weight free of the  $\beta$ -L-isomer.

Claims 160 - 179 (cancelled)

22  
Claim ~~180~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection  
in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally  
effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:

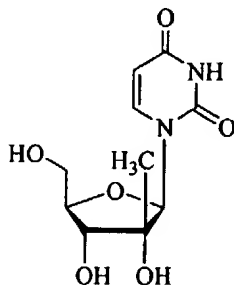


Claim ~~181~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection  
in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally  
effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



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Claim 182 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



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Claim 183 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D-2'-C-branched pyrimidine nucleoside.

Claim 184 (previously presented): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a  $\beta$ -D-2'-C-branched pyrimidine ribonucleoside. 25 26

Claim 185 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 183-184, wherein the host is a human.